

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 DRC-01 /211 W

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R 271225Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1561

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LOSBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11799

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US IT OVIP (STOESSEL, WALTER)

REF: ROME 11723

1. FOLLOWING IS UNCLEARED REPORT OF CONVERSATION WHICH MAY BE MODIFIED

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UPON REVIEW BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL. SUMMARY. DURING

WORKING LUNCH OCTOBER 25 HOSTED BY FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL DUCCI FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL, ITALIAN SIDE OFFERED ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS FOLLOWING EARLIER STOESSEL MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY PEDINI (REFTEL). OTHER PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED VICE DIRGENS MILESI FERRETTI AND LA ROCCA (WHO ALSO HEADS EC OFFICE) AND NATO OFFICE CHIEF DA RIN PLUS DCM AND EMBOFF. MAIN SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT LUNCH WERE JAPANESE ROLE IN TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE, CHANGING FRENCH ATTITUDE, TIMING OF EC DECLARATION, ITALIAN CONCERN WITH THIRD WORLD, EUROPEAN IDENTITY AND LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE DURING PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO NATO. END SUMMARY.

2. IN REPLY TO QUESTION FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DUCCI SAID THAT FONOFF, AS YET, HAD NO FIXED VIEWS ON MODALITIES FOR JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN US-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE. DUCCI NOTED THAT JAPANESE AS WELL SEEMED TO BE SOMEWHAT VAGUE ON THIS POINT DURING RECENT VISIT TO ROME OF FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA. HOWEVER, OHIRA DID PASS COPY OF JAPANESE TEXT WHICH US, BRITISH AND OTHERS HAVE RECEIVED. AS TO CURRENT ITALIAN THINKING, DUCCI SAID THAT OF VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES BEING DISCUSSED, FONOFF HAS SOME PREFERENCE FOR USING OECD MECHANISM TO BRING JAPANESE INTO THE PICTURE. FOREIGN MINISTER MORO HAS NOT YET RENDERED HIS JUDGMENT ON THIS IDEA BUT DUCCI BELIEVES CHANCES ARE HE WILL BE FAVORABLE. MAJOR PROBLEM ITALIANS SEE WITH OECD APPROACH IS THAT IT CAN GIVE THIRD WORLD UNDESIRABLE IMPRESSION OF RICH MEN'S CLUB GANGING UP AGAINST NON-ALIGNED. IN ANY CASE, DUCCI SAID GOI SUPPORTS INCLUSION OF JAPANESE IN TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE IN SOME GENERAL FASHION ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY NOT IN AREA OF SECURITY.

3. LUNCH DISCUSSION ALSO DISCLOSED CONTINUING ITALIAN CONCERN FOR FRENCH SENSITIVITIES IN CONTEXT OF US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT FRENCH ATTITUDE HAD UNDERGONE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE DURING PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. DUCCI SAID THAT WE MUST EXPLOIT CURRENT FRENCH FORTHCOMINGNESS VERY CAREFULLY LEST PARIS BEGIN TO MOVE BACKWARD AGAIN. HE THOUGHT THAT EC COUNTRIES HAD BROUGHT FRENCH ALONG ABOUT AS FAR AS THEY COULD AND THAT ANY ADDITIONAL PROGRESS WOULD HAVE TO BE VERY GRADUAL.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF TIMING OF THE EC NINE DECLARATION LA ROCCA INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT IF THERE WAS A DEADLINE THE EC PAPER

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COULD BE COMPLETED QUICKLY. HE MENTIONED IT MIGHT BE DONE IN TIME FOR A LATE NOVEMBER PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IF THE US COULD GIVE THE EUROPEANS A FINAL WORD VERY SOON. DUCCI SUGGESTED TO STOESSEL THAT IF THE VISIT DOES NOT OCCUR UNTIL NEXT YEAR AND WE, THEREFORE, HAVE MORE TIME THAN WE MIGHT ENVISAGE A RETURN MEETING OF THE EC NINE POL DIRS WITH STOESSEL ON THE MARGIN OF THE NATO MINISTERIAL AT BRUSSELS IN DECEMBER. IN DUCCI'S VIEW EVERYONE WOULD BE THERE (IRELAND COULD PRESUMABLY MAKE SOME ARRANGEMENT) AND DECISIONS

ON THE TEXTS COULD BE MADE QUICKLY.

5. AS THEY HAD IN STOESSEL-PEDINI CONVERSATION, ITALIANS RAISED PROBLEM OF THIRD WORLD IN CONNECTION WITH EFFORT TO REVITALIZE US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. DUCCI SAID THAT WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO ALIENATE THIRD WORLD IN PROCESS OF STRENGTHENING TRANS-ATLANTIC TIES OR WE WILL FIND OURSELVES INCREASINGLY DIVIDED FROM PART OF WORLD ON WHICH WE ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT FOR VARIETY OF NATURAL RESOURCES. WHAT IS NEEDED, DUCCI ADDED, IS NEW STRATEGY FOR RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD WHICH CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN TANDEM WITH ACHIEVEMENT OF DETENTE AND SOLUTION OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. AS EXAMPLE OF TYPE OF SITUATION WICH WE SHOULD SEEK TO CHANGE, DUCCI CITED FACT THAT VOTES OF LATIN AMERICANS IN UN NO LONGER COULD BE COUNTED ON TO FAVOR US/EUROPEAN POLICIES AND FOR MOST PART WERE LINED UP WITH AFRICANS AND OTHERS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES. STOESSEL SAID THAT US ALSO IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT "NON-ALIGNED" WORLD -- WHICH IN ACTUALITY IS ALIGNED -- AND THAT SECRETARY HAD THIS PROBLEM VERY MUCH IN MIND. DCM COMMENTED THAT COMMON NEED FOR THIRD WORLD RESOURCES SHOULD HELP TO FACILITATE US-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE.

6. IN DISCUSSION OF PREPARATION OF EUROPEAN IDENTITY PAPER, LA ROCCA SAID THAT NINE HAD STARTED WITH BRITISH DRAFT WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN REPLACED BY FRENCH CONTRIBUTION AS WORKING MODEL. LA ROCCA SAID THAT FRENCH HAD INTERPOSED FEW OBJECTION TO VARIOUS AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY OTHER EC MEMBERS MAKING IT CLEAR THAT MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR FRENCH WAS THAT IT WAS THEIR DRAFT WHICH WAS BEING DISCUSSED.

7. TURNING TO PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, DUCCI SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER RUMOR WAS LEANING IN DIRECTION OF NATO MEETING AT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL. RUMOR INCLINES TO VIEW THAT MEETING AT HIGH LEVEL WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE. IN RELATING
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THIS INFORMATION, DUCCI HINTED THAT ITALIANS WOULD BE WORKING ON FRENCH TO BRING THEM ALONG WITH THIS VIEW.

8. THERE WAS BRIEF DISCUSSION OF EC POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS DURING WHICH ITALIANS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT IMPORTANT PROGRESS CONTINUES TO BE LARELY STYMIED BY FRENCH OPPOSITION. DUCCI AND OTHERS WERE PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY WITH STALEMATE OVER POLITICAL SECRETARIAT WHICH THEY CONSIDER ESSENTIAL ELEMENT TO DEVELOPMENT OF FULL-BLOWN COMMUNITY POLITICAL CONSULTATION PROCESS. HOWEVER, GIVEN FRENCH INTRANSIGENCE ON ISSUE, THEY SEE LITTLE HOPE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SECRETARIAT IN NEAR FUTURE. VOLPE

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